Learning Conversation Notes		
Name of Partner:	Date:	
Golden Sierra Life Skills Men, Infants, Children (MIC) Program	September 28, 2005	
Number of Children Served: 29	Ages: 0 yr (7), 1 yr (3), 2 yr (5), 3 yr (1), 4 yr (8), 5 yr (5)	
When Served:	Gender:	Ethnicity:
March 30 – June 30, 2005	12 - Male	15 - Caucasian
Lincoln, Roseville, Auburn	17 - Female	2 - African Amer. 13 - Hispanic

Conversation Participants:

Tom Grayson, Debbie Dahl, Juan "Carlos" Antonio, Sylvia Ambriz, Diane Bras, Monica Rinne, Nancy Baggett, Lisa Boch, Don Ferretti, Mike Romero, Heidi Kolbe, and Janice Critchlow

Outcomes:

- 1. Fathers and father figures are more knowledgeable in child nurturing, child interacting, and parenting, and use these skills to promote their child's appropriate development.
- 2. The MIC Program will be financially sustainable independent of First 5 funding.

Performance Measures:

- Demographics (number of 0-5 served by gender, age, ethnicity, and when services were provided).
- Placer Early Childhood Outcomes Screens.
- Pictures of children demonstrating Placer Early Childhood Outcomes Screening indicators, including a written summary of the class discussion regarding these pictures.
- Survey results of father/father figures change in their knowledge of child development, parenting, and their relationship with their children.
- Grant applications submitted, and funding received to enhance and sustain the MIC program independent of First 5 Placer funding.

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Photos and outcome data attached. Following is the summary:

Pilot Outcomes Screening Process

A pre-screening is done on each child during the intake – filled out face-to-face with the father.

Program doesn't have access to the children most of the time. Therefore, it's important to give the fathers training on the Outcomes Screening Process. Group consensus model was used to complete Outcome Screening Forms. In the 6th or 7th Class, cameras were distributed and fathers were asked to take pictures when they were demonstrating indicators being achieved. Those pictures were shown to class and the fathers, by consensus, decided which indicator it showed.

Collecting the data had a program advantage as well: 100% participation and fathers often stayed late to work through the photos.

A post-screening is done on each child at the end of the 8-week class – filled out face-to-face with the father.

Indicator 11: Fathers are getting the concepts of positive parenting about nutrition and supporting their partners in receiving care. "I have learned that I must support my wife ..."

Photos sparked discussion and teachable moments. The value is the conversation, not necessarily the actual indicators.

The fathers made a lot of comments about safety issues; they might be more aware of safety issues than some of the other areas of the Outcome Screen.

Class Anecdotes Survey Results

As indicated in the anecdotal responses, it appears fathers are becoming more knowledgeable in child nurturing, interacting, and parenting.

They've all learned something.

The use of "developmental" language shows the men are really getting the concepts.

Multi-generational participants: two generations are being educated about brain development and developmental concepts.

It's important to ask for the meaning behind the statements.

Fathers have a wide range of education, background, and parenting issues.

Outcome Data Tracker Data

Two outcome screens: one for the child and one for the dad.

Overall, on entry and exit, the children's scores on average were quite high.

#1 - #16 is rated on how the child looks in his/her environment, not necessarily living with the father. #17 - #20 are based on relationships between the father and the child (info gathered face to face and discussion of photos).

The Child/Caregiver Relationship Screen shows improvement in indicators #17, #18, and #19.

#17

At intake, the majority of kids were participating in an informal support network for the family. At conclusion of class, the vast majority have achieved Outcome #17.

#19 Engaged in positive parenting At intake, 73"% came in as a "3."

At conclusion of program, 21 out of 29 – about 73% -- showed some improvement into the 4 or 5 range.

Given opportunity and supports, the fathers improve their parenting and become more knowledgeable as stated in the Outcome.

Shows motivated parents coming in.

Financial Sustainability

Need about \$96,000 to be independent.

Currently charging \$150 per participant with children over 5 to go through the class. Price is lower because of free materials from First Five. The current charge per participant may not equal actual cost per service, the actual cost being charged.

Applied for \$24,000 grant from March of Dimes to include premature birth education in current classes and venues.

In contract negotiations with Head Start for male involvement piece.

Attending MIC might be written into Court mandates. This may create more referrals without paying clients. Also, might attract parents of older children, which could provide income.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

Pilot program adding women to class

Having a woman in a class could change the dynamics of a class for fathers. May want to consider referring to other First 5 Partners. However, in the pilot, teachers noticed a positive effect in having a woman present as men could hear from a woman about the effects of their behavior on their partners. In the pilot, the communication improves between the partners. Might consider some programs for both parents. Seems successful for English component but might not be as successful for Hispanic component. Will be considered on a case-by-case basis with First 5 Staff involvement. This will be considered as emerging trends through other funding venues, independent of First 5.

Pilot Outcomes Screening Process

MIC might want to have a conversation/training with ECE Focus Group on the meaning of the indicators, to get the original intent, so there's an accurate understanding of what each indicator really means. "These indicators are about home, this one refers to x." Educate the fathers around the intended meaning of the indicators before asking them to identify the indicators.

As a final step, the facilitator could help the class choose the one, best indicator the picture is showing.

Set the context behind the photos. The quotes don't necessarily tell the story. Combine the picture with the context. When Carlos told us the context behind the little girl helping (father used to think the daughter was in the way but now understands that she's playing at working and he now sees it as a positive), we could see how the indicator what chosen.

This process looks promising and it just needs some adjusting to reflect accuracy.

Other

Safety: Contact First Five partners about other topics as necessary. For instance, Jim Owens, Safe Kids about bike helmets and life jackets. KIISS already makes presentations.

Diane Bras is considering researching the effectiveness of the MIC program for those being served by the Superior Court. She would like to compare court files for pre and post MIC Attendance by litigants.

Financial Sustainability

Survey existing MIC participants to see how many would be willing to pay for the program.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

Four year olds: Program emphasis is on how not to be a Disneyland Dad but to do enrichment activities with children. Dads are interested in children attending school. Emphasis is on getting children ready for kindergarten.

Court Facilitator's Office refers those cases in which children are under 5 years and father needs intervention. One of the few programs for men they can refer to. Sends referrals via email.

There's not only cultural issues involved but also "man" culture.

Financial Sustainability Suggestions:

Fundraising

Charge people who return to program

Grants writing

Now have a Kings Beach Class going thanks to outreach efforts of the Kings Beach Family Resource Center, Early Head Start, and Head Start. Have 5 fathers enrolled.

Next steps:

Meaning of Indicators

Consult with an Early Childhood Outcome Screen Expert about the meaning behind the indicators in order to be able to ensure accurate knowledge for the fathers and so the indicators attributed to the photos are a better match.

Financial Sustainability

For next Learning Conversation, about the Financial Sustainability Outcome, clearly present:

This is our \$ goal.

These are our strategies.

Here's where we are.

Here's what we're going to do to achieve the outcome.

Explore more options for Financial Sustainability.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 27, 8:30 – noon.